

**“1 Tool = 1 Glove”,
for a ‘zero accidents’ policy that
works smoothly**

SKF-SVR solves the
problems of allergy
protection with
Ansell’s Touch N Tuff®

**Mirroring the approach taken in Scandinavia,
the SKF group practises sustainable
development and has a growth policy that is
committed to be environmentally friendly**

For all SKF locations across the world, this commitment is reflected by the group’s OHSAS 18001 certification, which is the international benchmark for managing health and safety, as well as ISO 14001, the international environmental standard.

The SKF-SVR production facility in France also has ISO TS 16949 and Six Sigma certification and has been granted quality standards specific to Automobile QS9000 and TS 16949.

More than just satisfying customers, who increasingly want officially-recognised standards, these various certifications have enabled SKF-SVR to optimise its operating controls in addition to the risk assessment process and action plans it has put in place. These plans include a successful ‘zero accidents’ programme.

**The challenge: to put an end to dermatitis without
affecting productivity**

The 13 production lines at the SKF-SVR factory operate 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. The lines are divided into two production areas: one for forging and turning the races for the bearings, the second for adjustments, honing and assembly. With developments in technology and an increasing demand for small production runs of bearings, multi-pin lathes are gradually giving way to presses. “Our operators’ hands are constantly exposed to two types of risk,” explains Isabelle Deneufve, Hygiene Safety and Environment Manager: “Being in contact all the time with large quantities of oil, grease and white spirit has posed serious allergy problems at SKF.” In addition, handling and adjusting machines and tools, as well as changing and emptying the containers of races, can lead to bruises, cuts and crush injuries.



SKF operator using Ansell gloves

Isabelle Deneufve, Hygiene Safety and Environment Manager at SKF-SVR:
“Ansell quality assurance system meets the stringent requirements applied by SKF. And it is this common concern for high quality which explains, in particular, why we have opted for the Touch N Tuff®”.

Benefits for the customer

- Excellent level of acceptance by operators.
- Supplies guaranteed: Ansell is committed, alongside its distributors, to an agreement to stagger deliveries over 6 months, which avoids stocks running out.
- Productivity boosted by the superior performance and effective protection provided by Ansell gloves.
- Economies of scale in terms of direct and indirect costs associated with safety.

Customer company profile

With 100 production units across the world and three divisions – Industry, Services and Automotive – Sweden’s SKF group is the world’s leading provider of products, solutions and services of joints, mechatronics and lubrication systems in the bearings market. In France, SKF operates at 10 locations, 8 of which focus on production. These include the SKF-SVR factory in Vendée, where a workforce of approximately 520 workers produces a daily output of up to 700,000 standard and intelligent ball bearings with diameters ranging from 28 to 52 mm for the automotive industry and the electromechanical engineering sector, as well as for two-wheeled vehicles, the aviation and paper industries, mining and quarrying, etc.

Testimonial

The solution: combine education, information and a high-quality single-use chemical glove

"In an effort to reduce the onset of dermatitis at machining stations with soluble oil, we consulted with the staff and decided to equip our operators with single-use gloves. After being trained in what the various icons meant, they pointed out to us that the gloves they were using didn't provide protection against chemical risks. So we tried out Ansell Touch N Tuff® gloves, which were already being used by our colleagues at St Cyr sur Loire," recounts Isabelle Deneufve. "This Class III personal protective equipment (protection from irreversible chemical risks) totally meets our combined requirements in terms of providing a barrier against liquids, providing dexterity, lack of glove distortion and wearer comfort." The '1 tool – 1 glove' campaign introduced at SKF-SVR, includes Ansell user icons to provide both wearer education and exert a degree of persuasion among the operators. "Our company dedicates 5% of its total payroll to training. It's the price you have to pay to overcome natural resistance among staff and change their working habits."

The benefits: greater safety, operator satisfaction and lower costs

As an integral part of a programme aimed at achieving Zero Accidents, SKF-SVR's adoption of the Ansell Touch N Tuff® single-use glove, sometimes combined with wearing a cut resistant glove, and together with various other programmes and campaigns, has generated many benefits, both for the company and its staff:

- Dramatic reduction (over 80%) in the number of accidents requiring outside care – 8 months with 'zero accidents' in 2005.
- Low accident seriousness rate (0.48), lower than the average for the metals industry.
- Better usage of the gloves by operators: some of them wear their cut resistant gloves over their Touch N Tuff® for checking operations, they take off their cut resistant gloves, restoring good dexterity while still retaining good protection.
- Staff love them: out of the 320 members of staff who wear Touch N Tuff® at the factory, many also use them at home for domestic chores.
- Reduction in the consumption of cut resistant gloves and the number of disposable gloves used, compared with the old model.



Ansell product used

- Touch N Tuff® (4600 boxes per year), for protection against allergies when handling materials in greasy environments with the presence of chemicals; powder-free single-use gloves that prevent the working environment being contaminated.

Ansell

Ansell Limited is a world leader in the field of protective products. With operations in America, Europe and Asia, Ansell employs more than 11,000 people around the world and is a major player in the natural latex and synthetic polymer gloves markets and in condoms. Ansell's operations cover three sectors: Occupational Healthcare with protective gloves for industry, Professional Healthcare with surgical and examination gloves for health professionals, and Consumer Healthcare with condoms and household gloves.

For more information concerning Ansell and its products, please visit the company's website at: <http://www.ansell.eu>

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